DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 171 857 UD 019 514

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TITLE The Hoboken School District: A Mini Profile.
INSTITUTION Greater Newark Urban Coalition, N.J.
SPONS AGENCY National Urban Coalition, Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE Mar 79
NOTE 20p.; Pages in the appendix may be marginally legible due to print quality of the original document

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Academic Achievement; Blacks; Income; Racial Composition; *School Districts; Spanish Americans; State Aid; *Tables (Data); Taxes
IDENTIFIERS *New Jersey (Hoboken)

ABSTRACT

Hoboken is a low spending district with high needs and a low tax base. Student enrollment in Hoboken is predominantly black and Hispanic. Student achievement levels are among the lowest in New Jersey. In this report, these problems are put into perspective with the aid of tables which contain data about Hoboken itself as well as comparative data for Hoboken and other New Jersey cities. (PR)

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a report of the New Jersey Education Reform Project

ED171857

THE HOBOKEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
a mini profile

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UD019514

March, 1979

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PLEASE NOTE:

The data used in this profile was gathered from a number of sources, principally NJEA publications and State Department of Education data printouts. Revisions made subsequent to the publication of the data used may differ from figures quoted in this profile. However, any disparities in the figures used are not sufficient to alter the interpretations or conclusions stated in this report.

Hoboken is a relatively low spending district. The 1977-78 current expenditure per pupil was below both the State and Hudson County average (Table 3). Between 1974 and 1977, Hoboken's level of current expenditures per pupil increased at slightly greater percentage than both the State and County average per pupil expenditure (Table 4).

The aid to education provisions of the P.S.E. Act of 1975 increased state aid per pupil to Hoboken by $360 or 44.83%. State and county average state aid per pupil increased by a greater percentage, but lesser dollar amount during the same period (Table 6). The increase in Hoboken's spending on education between 1974 and 1977 (Table 4) suggests that the district put a slightly greater proportion of the new state aid into increasing education expenditure levels than the average district in the county and throughout the State.

Hoboken is a high need district. Approximately 81% of its enrolled students are participants in one or another special needs program (Table 15). In 1977-78, State categorical aid accounted for approximately 11% of the districts budgeted current expenditures.

Hoboken receives equalization aid for 74% of the district's current expense budget which is expected to amount to an estimated 7.9 million dollars in 1978-79 (Appendix A-1).

Hoboken has the lowest tax base in Hudson County and one of the lowest in the entire State. The district's equalized valuation per pupil is 50% below the County average and 65% below the State average. Compared to Secaucus, the wealthiest district in the County, Hoboken would have to tax its ratables nearly eight times as much in order to generate the revenue possible in Secaucus. The following example illustrates the revenue generating capacity of both districts if they assessed at a 2% tax rate.

Hoboken	$27,654	x	.02 = $553.08
	$205,183	x	.02 = $4103.66

Hoboken residents are heavily taxed. Hoboken's tax rate, the second highest in Hudson County is 95% above the State average and 28% above the County average (Table 1). The gap between the State average tax rate and Hoboken's has narrowed, if only slightly, since 1974. In 1974 Hoboken's tax rate was 106% above the State average (Table 5).

The student enrollment in Hoboken is predominantly minority, Blacks and Hispanics comprise 74% of the district's enrolled students (Table 10). The number of students enrolled in the district has remained relatively stable over the past six years (Table 9).

The measured achievement levels of Hoboken students are among the lowest in the State (Tables 10,12,14). At first glance it would seem that the performance of 11th grade students on last years Minimum Basic Skills Test (Table 14) promises some ray of light at the end of the tunnel. However, the 11th grade test has been criticized as being "too easy" and it is further believed that in most urban districts the poorest performing, academically deficient students drop out of school long before the end of the 11th grade.

In addition to the myriad of other pmoblems plaguing Hoboken, it is also a low income district. If incomes have increased for Hoboken residents at the same rate they have for the State in general, the median income for the State is twice as high as the median income in Hoboken. The estimated median income for New Jersey in 1975 was $16,432. The estimated median income for Hoboken in 1975 was $8,002.

Table 1

1978 Equalized Total Tax Rates
Of Hudson County School Districts

District	Rank	Equalized Total Tax Rate
Jersey City	1	6.07
Hoboken	2	5.61
West New York	3	5.24
Union City	4	5.08
Weehauken	5	4.65
COUNTY AVERAGE	-	4.37
Bayonne	6	4.04
North Bergen	7	3.81
East Newark	8	3.61
Guttenberg	9	3.42
STATE AVERAGE	-	2.87
Harrison	10	2.70
Secaucus	11	2.61
Kearny	12	2.54

Table 2

1977-1978 Equalized Valuation Per Pupil
Of Hudson County School Districts

District	Rank	Equalized Valuation Per Pupil
Secaucus	1	205,183
Kearny	2	107,952
North Bergen	3	96,507
Bayonne	4	82,528
Harrison	5	80,950
STATE AVERAGE	-	78,164
Guttenberg	6	75,506
Weehauken	7	65,354
East Newark	8	56,185
COUNTY AVERAGE	-	55,259
West New York	9	37,656
Union City	10	36,532
Jersey City	11	35,774
Hoboken	12	27,654

Table 3

1977 - 1978 Current Expenditures Per Pupil
Of Hudson County School Districts

District	Rank	Current Expenditure/Pupil
Secaucus	1	2,159
Weehauken	2	2,115
Harrison	3	1,988
STATE AVERAGE	-	1,907
Union City	4	1,906
Kearny	5	1,857
Bayonne	6	1,856
COUNTY AVERAGE	-	1,831
Hoboken	7	1,824
North Bergen	8	1,746
Jersey City	9	1,741
East Newark	10	1,712
West New York	11	1,684
Guttenberg	12	1,389

Table 4

Current Expenditures Per Pupil, 1974 and 1977
Hoboken, Hudson County Average, State Average

	1974	1977	Percent Increase
Hoboken	1,342	1,824	35.92%
Hudson County Average	1,360	1,831	34.63%
State Average	1,439	1,907	32.52%

Table 5

Equalized Total Tax Rates, 1974 to 1978
Hoboken, Hudson County Average, State Average

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Hoboken	6.77	6.19	5.86	5.47	5.61
Hudson County Average	4.43	4.25	4.46	4.42	4.37
State Average	3.28	3.17	3.26	3.01	2.87

Table 6

Total State Aid Per Pupil, 1974 and 1977
Hoboken, Hudson County Average, State Average

	1974	1977	Percent Increase
Hoboken	803	1,163	44.83%
Hudson County Average	343	640	86.59%
State Average	281	492	75.09%

Table 5-B

Equalized School Tax Rates, 1974 to 1978

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Hoboken	2.31	1.86	1.90	1.77	2.01
Hudson County Average	1.87	1.75	1.60	1.77	1.59
State Average	1.89	1.78	1.78	1.65	1.56

Table 7

Professional Staff Per 1000 Weighted Pupils

School Year	Hoboken	Hudson County Average	State Average	Percent Below State Average
1973 - 1974	52.2	50.9	58.1	-10.15%
1974 - 1975	53.9	55.5	59.7	- 9.72%
1975 - 1976	53.8	56.1	60.1	-10.48%
1976 - 1977	63.6	58.2	60.8	+ 4.61

Table 8

Enrolled Resident Pupils Per Classroom Teacher

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Hoboken	19.9	18.9	18.6	18.6	18.2
Hudson County Average	20.0	19.4	18.8	19.1	17.4
State Average	18.8	18.4	18.3	18.2	17.3

Table 9

Changes in Resident School Enrollment
Hoboken, 1972 to 1977

School Year	Pupil Count*	Percent Change
1972	8,405	--
1973	7,296	-13.19%
1974	7,186.5	- 1.50%
1975	7,192.5	+ 0.83%
1976	6,964	- 3.18%
1977	6,817	- 2.11%

Table 10

1977 - 1978 Racial Ethnic Enrollment in Hoboken

White	Black	Hispanic	Indian/Pacific	Total
1,695 (24.9%)	538 (7.9%)	4,493 (65.9%)	92 (1.3%)	6,818 (100.0%)

Table 11

1977 - 1978 Racial/Ethnic Dropout Report, Hoboken

White	Black	Hispanic	Indian/Pacific	Total
63 (26.5%)	13 (5.5%)	161 (67.6%)	1 (0.4%)	238 (100.0%)

Table 12

Estimated Percentage of Students Below
the Minimum Competency Level in Hudson County School Districts

District	Rank	Estimated Percentage of Students Below Minimum Compencency Level
Hoboken	1	61.0[illegible]
Jersey City	2	51.05
COUNTY AVERAGE	-	41.76
Union City	3	40.80
Harrison	4	36.67
Weehauken	5	35.39
Bayonne	6	33.99
STATE AVERAGE	-	28.94
North Bergen	7	27.89
Kearny	8	27.68
East Newark	9	25.77
West New York	10	24.83
Secaucus	11	21.51
Guttenberg	12	16.87

Table 13

Percentage of Students Not Achieving
Minimum Score on New Jersey College Basic Skills Test

	Reading Comprehension	Elementary Algebra
Hoboken	67.44%	61.33%
State Average	39.00%	57.00%

Table 14

1977 - 1978 Minimum Basic Skills Test Results
Percent Below Statewide Standard

Grade Tested	Skill Measured	Hoboken	State Average	Percent Difference
3	Reading	58.6	13.7	44.9
	Math	58.2	24.7	33.5
6	Reading	64.3	24.7	39.6
	Math	65.7	29.6	36.1
9	Reading	72.4	23.7	48.7
	Math	69.4	25.5	43.9
11	Reading	33.9	10.1	23.8
	Math	36.9	16.0	20.9

Table 15

Hoboken Students Enrolled in Special Programs

School Year	Special Education	Bilingual Education	Compensatory Education
1977-78	272	719	5,604
1978-79	245	716	4,541

APPENDIX

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A-2. 1978-1979 State School Aid, Hudson County.

A-3. 1978-1979 State School Aid, State Totals.

A-1

DISTRICT	DISTRICT NAME	COUNTY	COUNTY NAME
2210	HOBOKEN	17	HUDSON

REVENUE DEDUCTIONS 1977-78			1977-78 DATA			PARAMETERS		
BALANCE APPROPRIATED	0	(C-1)	ENROLLMENT (9/30)	6,817.00	(A)	GUARANTEED VALUATION	106,000	
TUITION RECEIVED	0	(C-2)	CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET	12,437,289	(B)	MAXIMUM SUPPORT	1,794	
MISCELLANEOUS	0	(C-3)	TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	1,644,876	(C)	MINIMUM STATE SHARE	10.00 %	
FEDERAL AID	0	(C-4)	NET OPERATING BUDGET	10,792,413	(D)	% OF C.E. & C.O.	1.5000 %	
TOT. BUDGETED TRANS.	120,680	(C-5)	N.O.B. / PUPIL	1,583	(E)			
CATEGORICAL AID	1,326,892	(C-6)	MAXIMUM SUPPORT BUDGET	12,229,698	(F)			
OTHER STATE AIDS	197,304	(C-7)	ADJUSTED N.O.B.	10,792,413	(G)	1978-79 STATE AID ENTITLEMENTS		
			EQUAL. VAL. (10/1)	188,516,791	(H)	EQUALIZATION AID	7,976,672	(AA)
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	1,644,876	(C)	EQUAL. VAL. / PUPIL	27,654	(I)	100 % APPROV TRANS.	137,834	(BB)
			STATE SHARE %	0.7391	(J)	CATEGORICAL AIDS	1,745,914	(CC)
1978-79 CATEGORICAL AID			ADJUSTED STATE SHARE %	0.7391	(K)			
SPECIAL EDUCATION	533,185	(V)				TOTAL CUR. EXP. AID	9,860,470	(DD)
COMPENSATORY EDUC	1,022,674	(W)	CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET	0	(L)	CAPITAL OUTLAY AID	0	(EE)
BILINGUAL	190,055	(X)	CAP. OUT. & CUR. EXP.	12,437,289	(M)	DEBT SERV AID TYPE 2	210,244	(FF)
LOCAL VOCATIONAL	0	(Y)	1.5000 % C.E. & C.O.	186,559	(N)	SAVE HARMLESS	0	(GG)
			ADJ. C.O. BUDGET	0	(O)			
TOTAL CATEGORICAL	1,745,914	(CC)	REV. DEDUCTION - C.O.	0	(P)	GRAND TOTAL	10,070,664	(HH)
			NET C.O. BUDGET	0	(Q)			
			DEBT SERVICE TYPE 1	279,723	(R)			
			DEBT SERVICE TYPE 2	284,460	(S)			
			REVENUE DEDUCTIONS	0	(T)			
			NET DEBT SERVICE 1-2	284,460	(U)	DEBT SERVICE AID TO MUNICIPALITY	206,743	(Z)

1978-79 STATE SCHOOL AID, CHAPTER 212, P. L. 1975 FILE UTILIZED EDSAI6 / /

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DISTRICT	DISTRICT NAME	COUNTY	COUNTY NAME
		17	HUDSON

REVENUE DEDUCTIONS 1977-78			1977-78 DATA			PARAMETERS		
BALANCE APPROPRIATED	4,268,828	(C-1)	ENROLLMENT (9/30)	84,707.50	(A)	GUARANTEED VALUATION	106,000	
TUITION RECEIVED	707,970	(C-2)	CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGT	155,177,815	(B)	MAXIMUM SUPPORT	0	
MISCELLANEOUS	1,054,139	(C-3)	TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	24,503,892	(C)	MINIMUM STATE SHARE	10.00 %	
FEDERAL AID	1,532,500	(C-4)	NET OPERATING BUDGET	130,673,923	(D)	% OF C.E. & C.O.	1.5000 %	
TOT. BUDGETED TRANS.	2,821,509	(C-5)	N.O.B. / PUPIL	1,543	(E)			
CATEGORICAL AID	11,652,296	(C-6)	MAXIMUM SUPPORT BUDGT	0	(F)			
OTHER STATE AIDS	2,466,650	(C-7)	ADJUSTED N.O.B.	0	(G)	1978-79 STATE AID ENTITLEMENTS		
			EQUAL. VAL. (10/1)	4,680,881,358	(H)	EQUALIZATION AID	64,862,912	(AA)
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	24,503,892	(C)	EQUAL. VAL. / PUPIL	55,259	(I)	100 % APPROV TRANS.	2,601,039	(BB)
			STATE SHARE %	0.0000	(J)	CATEGORICAL AIDS	17,243,029	(CC)
1978-79 CATEGORICAL AID			ADJUSTED STATE SHARE %	0.0000	(K)			
SPECIAL EDUCATION	6,896,924	(V)				TOTAL CUR. EXP. AID	84,706,980	(DD)
COMPENSATORY EDUC	7,985,398	(W)	CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET	968,881	(L)	CAPITAL OUTLAY AID	102,022	(EE)
BILINGUAL	1,807,646	(X)	CAP. OUT. & CUR. EXP.	156,146,696	(M)	DEBT SERV AID TYPE 2	557,467	(FF)
LOCAL VOCATIONAL	553,061	(Y)	1.5000 % C.E. & C.O.	2,342,201	(N)	SAVE HARMLESS	0	(GG)
			ADJ. C.O. BUDGET	586,313	(O)			
TOTAL CATEGORICAL	17,243,029	(CC)	REV. DEDUCTION - C.O.	6,000	(P)	GRAND TOTAL	85,366,469	(HH)
			NET C.O. BUDGET	580,313	(Q)			
			DEBT SERVICE TYPE 1	7,998,401	(R)			
			DEBT SERVICE TYPE 2	2,661,386	(S)			
			REVENUE DEDUCTIONS	400,840	(T)			
			NET DEBT SERVICE I-2	2,260,546	(U)	DEBT SERVICE AID TO MUNICIPALITY	4,150,096	(Z)

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1978-79 STATE SCHOOL AID, CHAPTER 212, P. L. 1975 FILE UTILIZED EDSAID / /

DISTRICT DISTRICT NAME COUNTY COUNTY NAME
43 STATE TOTALS

REVENUE DEDUCTIONS 1977-78			1977-78 DATA			PARAMETERS		
BALANCE APPROPRIATED	39,314,117	(C-1)	ENROLLMENT (9/30)	1,383,599.00	(A)	GUARANTEED VALUATION	106,000	
TUITION RECEIVED	63,395,851	(C-2)	CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGT	2,774,388,524	(B)	MAXIMUM SUPPORT	0	
MISCELLANEOUS	15,470,152	(C-3)	TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	455,533,256	(C)	MINIMUM STATE SHARE	10.00 %	
FEDERAL AID	52,268,289	(C-4)	NET OPERATING BUDGET	2,296,855,268	(D)	% OF C.E. & C.O.	1.5000 %	
TOT. BUDGETED TRANS.	208,503,636	(C-5)	N.O.B. / PUPIL	1,662	(E)			
CATEGORICAL AID	140,069,889	(C-6)	MAXIMUM SUPPORT BUDGT	0	(F)			
OTHER STATE AIDS	16,311,322	(C-7)	ADJUSTED N.O.B.	0	(G)	1978-79 STATE AID ENTITLEMENTS		
			EQUAL. VAL. (10/1)	108,147,542,906	(H)	EQUALIZATION AID	770,127,140	(AA)
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	455,533,256	(C)	EQUAL. VAL. / PUPIL	78,164	(I)	100 % APPROV TRANS.	92,851,357	(BB)
			STATE SHARE %	0.0000	(J)	CATEGORICAL AIDS	169,733,043	(CC)
1978-79 CATEGORICAL AID			ADJUSTED STATE SHARE %	0.0000	(K)			
SPECIAL EDUCATION	87,198,787	(V)				TOTAL CUR. EXP. AID	992,711,540	(DD)
COMPENSATORY EDUC	69,494,549	(W)	CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET	23,914,219	(L)	CAPITAL OUTLAY AID	3,930,404	(EE)
BILINGUAL	6,899,316	(X)	CAP. OUT. & CUR. EXP.	2,778,302,743	(M)	DEBT SERV AID TYPE 2	31,923,580	(FF)
LOCAL VOCATIONAL	6,140,391	(Y)	1.5000 % C.E. & C.O.	41,674,535	(N)	SAVE HARMLESS	0	(GG)
			ADJ. C.O. BUDGET	18,770,872	(O)			
TOTAL CATEGORICAL	169,733,043	(CC)	REV. DEDUCTION - C.O.	4,467,111	(P)	GRAND TOTAL	1,028,145,524	(HH)
			NET C.O. BUDGET	13,600,184	(Q)			
			DEBT SERVICE TYPE 1	44,367,007	(R)			
			DEBT SERVICE TYPE 2	142,554,551	(S)			
			REVENUE DEDUCTIONS	3,684,049	(T)			
			NET DEBT SERVICE 1-2	138,849,702	(U)	DEBT SERVICE AID TO MUNICIPALITY	19,144,863	(Z)

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